

minor blast hazard or a minor projection hazard or both, but not a mass explosion hazard.

(4) *Division 1.4* consists of explosives that present a minor explosion hazard. The explosive effects are largely confined to the package and no projection of fragments of appreciable size or range is to be expected. An external fire must not cause virtually instantaneous explosion of almost the entire contents of the package.

(5) *Division 1.5<sup>1</sup>* consists of very insensitive explosives. This division is comprised of substances which have a mass explosion hazard but are so insensitive that there is very little probability of initiation or of transition from burning to detonation under normal conditions of transport.

(6) *Division 1.6<sup>2</sup>* consists of extremely insensitive articles which do not have a mass explosive hazard. This division is comprised of articles which contain only extremely insensitive detonating substances and which demonstrate a negligible probability of accidental initiation or propagation.

[Amdt. 173–224, 55 FR 52617 Dec. 21, 1990, as amended at 56 FR 66267, Dec. 20, 1991]

**§ 173.51 Authorization to offer and transport explosives.**

(a) Unless otherwise provided in this subpart, no person may offer for transportation or transport an explosive, unless it has been tested and classed and approved by the Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety (§ 173.56).

(b) Reports of explosives approved by the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy must be filed with, and receive acknowledgement in writing by, the Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety prior to such explosives being offered for transportation.

**§ 173.52 Classification codes and compatibility groups of explosives.**

(a) The classification code for an explosive, which is assigned by the Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety in accordance with this subpart, consists of the division number followed by the compatibility group letter. Compatibility group letters are used to specify the controls for the transportation, and storage related thereto, of explosives and to prevent an increase in hazard that might result if certain types of explosives were stored or transported together. Transportation compatibility requirements for carriers are prescribed in §§ 174.81, 175.78, 176.83 and 177.848 of this subchapter for transportation by rail, air, vessel, and public highway, respectively, and storage incidental thereto.

(b) Compatibility groups and classification codes for the various types of explosives are set forth in the following tables. Table 1 sets forth compatibility groups and classification codes for substances and articles described in the first column of Table 1. Table 2 shows the number of classification codes that are possible within each explosive division. Altogether, there are 35 possible classification codes for explosives.

TABLE 1.—CLASSIFICATION CODES

| Description of substances or article to be classified  | Compatibility group | Classification code          |
|--|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Primary explosive substance .....  | A                   | 1.1A                         |
| Article containing a primary explosive substance and not containing two or more effective protective features. Some articles, such as detonators for blasting, detonator assemblies for blasting and primers, cap-type, are included, even though they do not contain primary explosives.                          | B                   | 1.1B<br>1.2B<br>1.4B         |
| Propellant explosive substance or other deflagrating explosive substance or article containing such explosive substance.   | C                   | 1.1C<br>1.2C<br>1.3C<br>1.4C |
| Secondary detonating explosive substance or black powder or article containing a secondary detonating explosive substance, in each case without means of initiation and without a propelling charge, or article containing a primary explosive substance and containing two or more effective protective features. | D                   | 1.1D<br>1.2D<br>1.4D<br>1.5D |

<sup>1</sup>The probability of transition from burning to detonation is greater when large quantities are transported in a vessel.

<sup>2</sup>The risk from articles of Division 1.6 is limited to the explosion of a single article.